



May 1, 2013
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FDOT RECOGNIZES MAY AS MOTORCYCLE SAFETY AWARENESS MONTH

TALLAHASSEE – The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) recognizes May 2013 as Motorcycle Safety Awareness Month. Motorcycles can be easily hidden in traffic, so it critical for motorists to watch for motorcycles to ensure everyone's safety.

Here are several safety tips to help motorcyclists stay safe:

- Don't buy more bike than you can handle
- Hone your skills by taking a training class
- Wear protective gear including helmet (Riders without a helmet are 40 percent more likely to suffer a fatal head injury in a crash and three times more likely to suffer brain injuries than those with helmets, according to government studies)
- Drive defensively (in multi vehicle crashes, car drivers were at fault 60 percent of the time so be extra alert)
- Brighten up (wear bright colors to make you more visible)
- Avoid bad weather
- Watch for road hazards
- Before each ride make sure your bike and is working properly(lights, horn, tires, etc.)
- Ride responsibly, “Don’t Drink and Ride”.

FDOT Secretary Ananth Prasad said, “The department remains steadfast in our commitment to ensure all motorists enjoy safe travels on our roadways. This safety campaign is an important tool to raise awareness of this critical issue.”

“Florida’s mild climate and beautiful scenery make it very attractive for Florida residents to own a motorcycle. Those same characteristics make it a popular destination for many motorcycle-riders who visit our state each year,” said Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles Executive Director Julie Jones. “Car and truck drivers should expect to share the road with motorcycles each day. Awareness of the limitations of other vehicles on the road and driving accordingly will make the traveling experience in Florida more pleasant and safer for all.”

See attached *proclamation*.



RICK SCOTT
GOVERNOR

MOTORCYCLE SAFETY AWARENESS MONTH

WHEREAS, Florida's growing population and popularity with motorcycle enthusiasts make motorcycle safety an important issue; and

WHEREAS, May 2013 is being commemorated as Motorcycle Safety Awareness Month; and

WHEREAS, the motorcycle is an important form of transportation for commuting, touring, and recreation; and

WHEREAS, more than a million drivers in Florida have a motorcycle endorsement on their drivers license; and

WHEREAS, 451 motorcyclists and their passengers lost their lives in fatal crashes on Florida's roadways in 2011; and

WHEREAS, motorcycles can easily be hidden in traffic, therefore it is important to search the traffic around you and always expect to see motorcycles; and

WHEREAS, to prevent injuries and deaths on Florida's roadways, motorcyclists and motorists must be vigilant in their efforts to share the road and ensure the safety of everyone;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Rick Scott, Governor of the State of Florida, do hereby extend greetings and best wishes to all observing May 2013 as *Motorcycle Safety Awareness Month*.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Florida to be affixed at Tallahassee, the Capital, this 22nd day of April, in the year two thousand thirteen.

A blue ink signature of Governor Rick Scott.

Governor